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ACTION ARA-16

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-07	INR-10	SS-10	CIAE-00
	EB-08	DODE-00	H-01	NSC-01	NSAE-00	COME-00	HA-08
	L-03	LAB-04	TRSE-00	PM-09	PA-01	STR-14	SIL-01
	SAL-01	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	PRS-01	/111 W

R 141157Z APR 83
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6973
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full

(☐) Classify as (☐) Extend as (☐) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 02391

CINCSO FOR INTAFF, CINCLANT ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, AR

SUBJ: INTERIOR MINISTER DENIES LABOR-MILITARY PACT

1. SUMMARY: REACTING TO PERSISTENT RUMORS ABOUT A MILITARY-LABOR PACT, INTERIOR MINISTER LLAMIL RESTON HAS DENIED ITS EXISTENCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, A TRADE UNION SOURCE, WHILE DISMISSING ANY PACT, CONFIRMED THAT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN RULE ARE UNDERWAY IN SECRET BETWEEN THE PERONIST "62 ORGANIZATIONS" ON THE ONE HAND AND THE ARMY ON THE OTHER. THIS PROMISES TO BE AN EXTREMELY DIVISIVE ISSUE WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES; THE NAVY HAS ALREADY REGISTERED ITS CONCERN. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ACCORDING TO A GROUP OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADERS WITH WHOM HE MET ON APRIL 11, RESTON DENIED TO THEM THE EXISTENCE OF A MILITARY-TRADE UNION PACT, WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF INCESSANT PRESS REPORTS RECENTLY.

[REDACTED]

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RESTON'S ASSERTION FOLLOWS ON THE HEELS OF DENIALS BY

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"62 ORGANIZATIONS" CHIEF LORENZO MIGUEL. CGT-RA SECRETARY GENERAL SAUL UBALDINI HAS ALSO DENIED HAVING CONTACTS WITH THE MILITARY.

3. [REDACTED] A RANKING MEMBER OF THE CGT-RA AND "62" DISCLAIMED A PACT, BUT CONFIRMED TO US IN MID-APRIL THAT MIGUEL AND OTHER LEADERS OF THIS LABOR FACTION HAVE BEEN MEETING REGULARLY WITH ARMY OFFICERS. THE SOURCE EXPLAINED THAT THE ARMY LEADERSHIP THINKS THAT THE "62" AND CGT-RA WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME THE DOMINANT FORCE IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT AND HENCE WILL HAVE AN INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN THE PERONIST PARTY. ARMY LEADERS PURPORTEDLY HAVE ALSO CONCLUDED THAT THE PERONISTS ARE GOING TO WIN THE ELECTIONS AND THE ARMY WANTS TO DISCUSS ISSUES WHICH WILL BE FACING THE ELECTED AUTHORITIES.

4. [REDACTED] FOR ITS PART, THE "62" SHARES THE MILITARY'S CONCERN ABOUT THE NEED CAREFULLY TO MANAGE THE TRANSITION, AND HAS PURPORTEDLY DECIDED TO REFRAIN FROM ANY MAJOR STRIKES OR PROVOCATIVE ACTS "WHICH COULD ENDANGER THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS." HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, LABOR LEADERS TOLD THE MILITARY THAT "SOMETHING" NEEDS TO BE DONE TO APPEASE WIDESPREAD PUBLIC DEMANDS FOR AN ACCOUNTING FOR CORRUPTION, THE FALKLANDS WAR, AND THE DISAPPEARED. THE FOREIGN DEBT AND ECONOMIC/SOCIAL POLICY ARE OTHER TOPICS UNDER DISCUSSION. THE INTENTION OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IS TO EASE THE TRANSITION, HE ASSERTED, NOT REACH AN ELECTORAL PACT. DUE TO THE HEAVY PUBLICITY OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, WHICH THE LABOR LEADER ATTRIBUTES TO LEAKS FROM OPPONENTS WITHIN THE MILITARY, TALKS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED FOR THE MOMENT. HE EXPECTED THEM TO RECOMMENCE BEFORE LONG.

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[REDACTED]

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5. [REDACTED] LABOR'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MILITARY ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY THE "62" WHICH DOES NOT WANT THE MILITANT LEADERSHIP OF THE CGT-RA TO JEOPARDIZE THE TALKS OR CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH STRIKES. THUS, THE "62" HAS "INSTRUCTED" THE CGT-RA TO MODERATE ITS STANCE. THIS HAS NOT BEEN WELL RECEIVED BY THE CGT-RA'S COMBATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL, SAUL UBALDINI. COMMENT: UBALDINI, WHOM MIGUEL PROMOTED TO CGT-RA LEADERSHIP OUT OF OBSCURITY AS THIRD MAN IN THE INSIGNI-

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FICANT BREWERS' UNION, HAS DEVELOPED AN IMAGE AND FOLLOWING OF HIS OWN. RELATIONS BETWEEN MIGUEL AND UBALDINI ARE STRAINED AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER UBALDINI WILL STAY ON THE RESERVATION. END COMMENT).

6. [REDACTED] MEANWHILE, THE CGT-AZOPARDO IS AGAIN BECOMING IMPATIENT WITH GOVERNMENT RELUCTANCE TO HAND OVER THE LARGE TRADE UNIONS WHICH STILL REMAIN UNDER MILITARY CONTROL: CONSTRUCTION, MEATPACKING, AUTO WORKERS, AND METALWORKERS. CGT-AZOPARDO LEADER JORGE TRIACA HAS WARNED THAT THEY MAY CALL ANOTHER GENERAL STRIKE, THIS TIME FOR 48 HOURS, IN EARLY MAY.

7. [REDACTED] COMMENT:
WE SUSPECT THE ARMY IS HOPING FOR HELP FROM THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN GUARDING THE MILITARY'S RETREAT FROM POWER AGAINST INVESTIGATIONS FOR WRONGDOING OF ALL KINDS, PARTICULARLY THE DISAPPEARED. THE ARMY PROBABLY ALSO WANTS LABOR MODERATION IN TERMS OF STRIKES, DEMONSTRATIONS ETC. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW FAR LORENZO MIGUEL AND THE CGT-RA ARE WILLING TO GO, WHAT THE PRICE WILL BE FOR LABOR'S COOPERATION, AND HOW MUCH INFLUENCE LABOR EVENTUALLY WIELDS IN THE PERONIST PARTY. IN ANY EVENT, TALK OF MILITARY-LABOR TRADE-OFFS MAKES POLITICIANS, PARTICULARLY PERONISTS, SHIVER BECAUSE OF THE LEVERAGE IT WOULD GIVE LABOR IN THE FORTHCOMING INTRA-PARTY

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STRUGGLES. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE

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BETWEEN SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO MUTUAL PROBLEMS AND
CONSTRUCTING A LABOR-MILITARY PACT, MANY OBSERVERS FEAR
THAT ONE MAY LEAD TO THE OTHER AND THAT IT COULD TAKE ON
DANGEROUS NATIONALIST, CORPORATIST AND AUTHORITARIAN
OVERTONES. REPORTEDLY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY
IS THE NAVY -- TRADITIONALLY THE MOST ANTI-PERONIST OF
THE SERVICES -- WHICH THROUGH ITS CINC, RUBEN FRANCO,
SEVERELY CRITICIZED THE LABOR LEADERSHIP IN THE WAKE OF
THE MARCH 28 STRIKE. WE SUSPECT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE
UNEASE ABOUT THE ARMY-LABOR DIALOGUE IN ARMY AND AIR FORCE
CIRCLES AS WELL. SHLAUDEMAN

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